



TAKES OVER COMMAND . . . Lt. Col. Marcus D. White, port surgeon (left), who had charge of construction of the new Army L. A. P. E. hospital at Torrance, is seen discussing details of the new hospital with Lt. Col. W. H. L. Westbrook, Jr., who last week was assigned as commanding officer. This picture was taken in one of the surgical rooms by a Herald-News photographer. The hospital is equipped with the very finest facilities, according to Lt. Col. Westbrook. Lighting in the operating room is so designed that it leaves no shadows.

Army Hospital Now Receiving Patients; Seeks Civilian Help

The new Army Station hospital at Torrance for the Los Angeles Port of Embarkation received its first patients this week, as Lt. Col. W. H. L. Westbrook, Jr., commanding officer of the institution, was busy enrolling staff members.

Approximately 200 civilians will be employed, all of whom will work under civil service. Especially needed at present are civilian cooks—either men or women—laboratory technicians and laborers. Those who can qualify for these positions are urged to apply at the hospital. They will be admitted through the main entrance on Carson st. When the hospital is fully staffed, it will have a complement of 25 medical department officers, 50 nurses and 300 enlisted men. The institution now has 600 beds and facilities to increase these to 1250 beds if necessary.

Lt. Col. Westbrook, Jr., who was assigned last week as commanding officer of the hospital, is 34 years old, and one of the youngest Army officers in the Medical Corps to advance to this rank. He is a regular Army man with nearly ten years in the service.

Born in Franklin, Va., Lt. Col. Westbrook received his A. B. degree at Duke university, and his M.D. at Johns Hopkins Medical school. Following a year's internship, he enlisted in the Army Medical Corps. For three years he was Chief of Hospital Surgical Service at San Juan Station hospital, Puerto Rico, and later returned to the United States for training at the Army Command and General Staff school at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan. He also took a special course in orthopedic surgery at Harvard university.

Among the department chiefs who are now on duty at the hospital are: Maj. John T. Benbow, executive officer and hospital inspector; Maj. L. M. Plimkin acting chief of the dental service; Capt. Donald L. McMillan, acting chief of surgical serv-

Vast Expansion of Rubber Plants Told by U. S. Rubber Co. Director

"We're not going to wait for a utopia to show up. We think that it is up to industry to lead the way out of the postwar wilderness."

With these words Cyrus Ching, United States Rubber Co. director of public and industrial relations and former member of the War Labor Board, explained his visit to Los Angeles and prefaced his announcement of the first step in a vast expansion program for the Los Angeles area plants of the company.

"These aggressive plans for rubber products factories, taken with the production of 850,000 tons of Buna A rubber at the Torrance synthetic plant, places the Los Angeles area in a position to become the No. 1 rubber center of the world," Ching said.

The first shipment of "mixing mills," "Banbury" mills, presses and other rubber products making machinery have already been installed according to Ching. When the project is completed the plant's capacity will be doubled and the way opened for the employment of twice the number of present employees, he said.

There is a very good reason for this aggressive approach to the postwar world, Mr. Ching explained. First of all there is abundant evidence that the Pacific coast is on the march so far as the rubber industry is concerned. He pointed out that Los Angeles, already second in rubber production, should benefit tremendously from the acceleration of both export trade and manufacturing when the Pacific areas are opened up.

"If industry and labor each

Sgt. Vernon W. Coil of "Evil Eye Egbert" Home on Furlough

A technical sergeant has plenty to do on a bombing plane while in action and just that is the experience had by Vernon W. Coil, who left Torrance about a year ago to get into the thick of the fight against the Axis in North Africa, in Sicily and in the mainland of Italy—to Rome.

Sgt. Coil looks some years older than he did when he went away. But who wouldn't after going through some of the severest air battles of the war? The Coils reside at 1007 Cota ave.

The sergeant would rather talk about his year-old son whom he last saw when the youngster was only two days old than he would about his daring exploits with the U.S. Army Air Forces in the North African and European war theaters. He is enjoying a visit with his wife, Pauline McNeis before her marriage, and getting better acquainted with their youngster.

However, his thoughts were turned away from the young son long enough to explain that he had been on 50 bombing missions over foreign soil, 37 of which were while he was attached to the bomber which his crew christened as "Evil Eye Egbert." This ship came back to base on a good many occasions with holes shot in her fuselage and bearing other evidences of conflict. "Evil Eye Egbert" was retired after the 37th mission and then the crew had to take to other ships to carry on through the 50th.

Bizerte, Sicily and Rome were blasted by guns carried by "Evil Eye Egbert." Three members of the crew were killed during these missions. Sgt. Coil escaped unhurt.

Sgt. Coil is on a 30-day furlough. About the middle of January he will leave for San Francisco where he will receive his next assignment.

Students Sell War Securities Valued at \$7570

The pupils of Torrance Elementary school have bought or helped to sell a total of \$7570 worth of War Stamps and Bonds this term, according to Bernard J. Strand, principal.

A flag ceremony is held each Tuesday at 1 o'clock p.m. All the 900 pupils of the school with their 30 teachers gather around the flag for a program, consisting of a bugle call by Orin Patlock, the flag salute, and the singing of the Star Spangled Banner led by Miss Norma Look, music instructor.

Awards are given for pupils bringing in the most sales in their rooms and in the schools.

Mrs. Helen Whitney is chairman of the War Stamps and Bond campaign at the school. She is assisted by Mrs. Ethelyn Morgan.

Mrs. E. H. Coil is chairman of the War Stamps and Bonds committee of the Torrance Elementary Parent-Teacher organization. Each Wednesday morning from 10 to 11 o'clock she sells War Stamps at the school. This past Wednesday her sales were \$175 in War Stamps. Two completed stamp books were converted into bonds.

Bellflower Man Killed by Crash At G. P. Plant

Alex W. Jenkins, 53, whose home is at 207 West Flower st., Bellflower, lost his life Monday morning through collapse of a large steel boom used in moving heavy machinery being placed in the new refinery building at the General Petroleum plant at 190th st. and Crenshaw blvd. Other workmen engaged on the job escaped without injury.

Jenkins was employed by the Pacific Crane & Rigging Co., holding a subcontract from the Lummus Co., general contractors. The body was taken to the Stone & Myers mortuary to be prepared for shipment to Bellflower where funeral rites will be held. Interment will follow in a Whittier cemetery.

IN TRAINING HERE

Mrs. Nan W. Palmer is at the Federal Housing Center in Torrance for training preparatory to taking charge of the new housing office to be opened soon at Wilmington under Pat MacDonnell, in charge of all housing centers in the South Bay and Harbor districts.

Waves to Show Colored Picture At H. S. Tuesday

Plans were completed for the WAVE recruiting rally to be staged at the Torrance high school auditorium next Tuesday evening, Nov. 30, under auspices of the National Business and Professional Women's club, which was announced by Miss Suzanne Saffold, specialist, third class, of the Navy department.

Miss Saffold advised that among the speakers will be May or Tom M. McGuire, Richard Denning, yeoman, third class, a woman officer of the WAVE from Los Angeles, and Miss Saffold will explain some of the advantages and opportunities for advancement by enlistment in the WAVE.

One of the features of the evening will be the showing of a colored moving picture titled "That Man May Fight" an authorized Navy presentation. Everyone is invited to attend. The picture alone will be worth going to see, but it will be interesting to many to hear more about the part women are playing to win the war.

Torrance Given Praise for War Chest Work

The L. A. Area War Chest, Torrance division, campaign was reported by Chairman Hillman Lee to be making good progress this week. According to Lee more than \$37,000 in cash and pledges had been turned in to Chest headquarters in the Chamber of Commerce building. The goal of the Torrance division is \$50,000.

Chairman Lee attended a general area meeting in the Los Angeles Biltmore Bowl Tuesday afternoon when speakers complimented the Torrance organization for the speed in which the local organization is conducting the campaign. It was reported at the meeting that Torrance had turned in 61 per cent of its quota in cash and pledges up to that time.

One sizable contribution was expected from one of the local war industries before the end of this week, it was stated.

Civic Auditorium Opened Again; Youth Recreational Activities

The Torrance Civic Auditorium was opened for recreational activities on schedule last Monday evening, in accordance with instructions from the city council with Dale Riley, recreation commissioner, in charge.

A count showed that 38 young people of this community were present during the evening to participate in such games as badminton, ping-pong and other facilities provided for their entertainment.

Commissioner Riley thought this was a very good turnout for the opening night at the auditorium which had been closed to the public since Pearl Harbor.

The commissioner was a bit disturbed over the limited equipment on hand. For instance, there is a shortage of badminton racquets, and a dire lack of ping-pong balls, which he finds are extremely difficult to obtain. He has spent most of the past week in an effort to get a new supply and it is like looking for a needle in a haystack to find any. He says any donations from the public will be gratefully appreciated.

He tried to get a shuffleboard set, but failed in his quest. Now he proposes to solve this problem by making a set himself. He hopes to have it ready for use in the near future.

He found in talks with the young people present Monday night that most all of those there are deeply interested in dancing and it is probable that parties of this nature will be arranged. There is plenty of room in the rear of the hall, he said, and the auditorium has a phonograph with a good selection of dance records available for use without interfering with other activities.

The auditorium is open for recreational activities from Monday to Thursday nights, inclusive, under mandate of the city council, while the Servicemen's Foundation, a non-profit organization, has priority on sponsorships of dancing and other attractions on Friday and Saturday nights, if the commissioner is notified a week in advance of any plans they may have for these nights.

Purpose of opening the auditorium has resulted in a public demand for renewal of youth activities, the argument having been advanced that ever since the place was closed the young people of Torrance have had no place to go for wholesome recreation. The further argument was used that renewal of these advantages would be a potent factor toward solving, at least to a large extent, the problem of juvenile delinquency in this community.

It has been suggested that one evening a week be set aside for adult activities, according to Commissioner Riley.

Local Men Plan Construction of 100 New Houses

Determined to do all they can to relieve the critical housing shortage here, a group of Torrance business, industrial and professional men have formed a \$50,000 building corporation under the name of Torrance Homes, Inc. and plan to start construction soon on the first group of 15 single family houses in the western section of Torrance, near the Fern Avenue school.

As soon as \$25,000 has been paid in, work will be started, according to C. T. Rippey, treasurer of the corporation. Arrangements are being conducted with James Focancong, contractor, to supervise construction.

Building operations by the new corporation will be limited to two and three-bedroom single family homes, Rippey said, and the company expects to build at least 100 houses during the coming year. They will all be located in Torrance.

James L. Lynch is president of Torrance Homes, Inc., and Sam Levy is secretary. Officers of the company stated they already had a substantial portion of the initial capital paid in, and expected to secure the balance of the \$25,000 required to begin operations this week.

Ex-Convict Nabbed After Attacking Hermosa Girl, 17

George Edward Martinez, Jr., 26, who gave his address as 729 11th st., Hermosa Beach, was arrested by Torrance police Sunday night charged with a criminal assault on a 17-year-old girl also of Hermosa.

His bail was fixed a \$1000 which he was unable to obtain pending the preliminary hearing before Judge O. B. Willett Wednesday morning.

Meanwhile, the father of the accused called on parents of the girl involved proposing settlement of the case by marriage, which was promptly refused.

Chief of Police John Stroh asserts Martinez is an ex-convict. He was said to have been employed recently in a war production plant.

A soldier and another girl of tender age were also involved in the case. The accused soldier was turned over to custody of the Army provost marshal for disposition of his case. The soldier's name was not immediately available.

At the close of the preliminary hearing before Judge Willett Wednesday morning, Martinez was held to trial in superior court and Friday, Dec. 10 set as the date of arraignment in Department 3 in the Hall of Records.

It was brought out at the hearing that the defendant was employed at a harbor shipyard while on parole from prison on a previous conviction. His bail was set at \$500 from \$1000 on consent of the deputy prosecuting attorney called on the case.

Compton Seeks Bus Extension To Torrance

The Compton Municipal Bus Lines is seeking a franchise to operate a bus line between Compton and Torrance. This was revealed to the city council of Torrance Tuesday night in a communication from C. Z. Ward, manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, who stated that a hearing on the application had been set for Nov. 26 before the California State Highway Commission at the State Bldg. in Los Angeles.

The council delegated Otto B. Willett, acting city attorney, and Manager Ward to attend the hearing.

The Compton application was filed by Frank Atkinson, head of the bus system at Compton. It is probable that the application will be protested by the Torrance representatives on the grounds that establishment of such a line would duplicate a part of the area now served by Torrance buses.

LONG BEACH GUESTS
Sunday dinner guests of Mrs. Janet Woodington were Mr. and Mrs. George Lake, Mrs. Ivy Johnson and daughter, Kathleen, all of Long Beach.

Lomitans Seek Place On Selective Service Board 280, in Torrance

After reading a plea from Selective Service Board 280 of Torrance that it was having difficulty securing suitable replacements for board members, Capt. Frank Keidel of 1620 Pacific Coast highway and commander of Lomita Post 1322, V.F.W., and Eugene Beckman, adjutant and past commander, are preparing strong protests which will be presented to the Board at Torrance, the state director of Selective Service and to Gen. Hershey, Washington.

Keidel explained that on Dec. 2, 1942 when conditions indicated that the Lomita should have a representative on the board, Beckman was recommended. He also explains that Lester E. Stanley of Torrance, past commander of Torrance Post, V.F.W., was also recommended for appointment to the board. On Nov. 6, 1943, Keidel says various Lomita citizens including veterans organization representatives advised him that the board was seeking a successor to Secretary Earl Jacobs. This group was unanimous in insisting that he, Keidel, accept the post when it became vacant. This Keidel agreed to do and several letters from Lomita people thoroughly familiar with Keidel's interest in servicemen and the selective service program, forwarded recommendations both to the board and to Capt. Keidel, urging that he be appointed.

"It appears," Keidel declares, "that the board has disregarded the Lomita people who have been recommended for the post, that they have also disregarded recommendations of veteran organizations and now are crying that they cannot secure suitable replacements. We feel that this is a reflection on our community and on the veteran organizations and we hereby insist that those who have been recommended at least be given a hearing before the board releases complaints that they cannot secure people to take these important posts."

The following excerpt from an article recently appearing in a Long Beach newspaper aroused the ire of the Lomita V.F.W. officials:

"Chairman Carl D. Steele and Doris P. Watson of Torrance Selective Board 280 are complaining that it has been impossible to find suitable replacements for board members seeking to resign. The board is trying to find members for this work who are willing to give their time to the job of selecting men to win the war but everybody is so busy it is not so easy. Other members of the Torrance board are Howard E. Hutton, banker; John E. Miller, reemployment board chairman; Charles T. Rippey, appeal agent; Carl D. Steele, chairman of the board, and Doris P. Watson, chief clerk.

BIKES RECOVERED
Two bicycles stolen from the Fern Avenue school early last week were recovered by the sheriff's department and returned to their owners who are enrolled at the school, according to a report received by the Torrance police department. Just where the recovery was made was not revealed.

Amended Ordinance Broadens Powers of Police Department

An ordinance was introduced and read for the first time in the Torrance city council Tuesday night amending existing ordinance No. 119 which when finally adopted will broaden the powers of the chief of police in the matter of city traffic regulation.

The proposed amendments will so streamline the traffic regulations in the future that they may be enforced in most cases without further councilmanic authorization.

Civilian Defense Meeting, Program Called for Dec. 7

Announcement was made on Thanksgiving day that a meeting of the Civilian Defense workers had been called for the evening of Tuesday, Dec. 7 for an all-out practice which will be followed by an entertainment program to be staged at the Torrance Civic Auditorium by Joe Johnson's Troubadors in Negro specialty numbers. The public is invited to the entertainment starting at 8:15 o'clock.

L. A. Chamber Men to Address Torrance Meeting on Dec. 6

Charles P. Bayer, secretary of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, and Glen B. Eastburn, secretary of the aviation division of the L. A. Chamber, will be the principal speakers at the general membership meeting of the newly re-organized Torrance Chamber of Commerce, it was announced today by President James L. Lynch of the local Chamber.

The general meeting which the public is urged to attend, is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 6 at 8 p.m. in the courtroom of the Torrance city hall, instead of the Chamber offices as previously planned.

Arrangements for the Los Angeles Chamber officials visit were made Wednesday this week at a conference with President Lynch, Vice-president Philip Van Dyke, and Secretary Robert McCallum.

"We plan to have a comprehensive and enlightening outline of the Torrance Chamber's program presented at the Dec. 6 meeting," said President Lynch, "and we are particularly anxious to have a good attendance. Everyone interested in the welfare and development of this community is invited, whether or not they are members of the Chamber of Commerce."

Details of the program for present activities as well as the long-range plans for post-war work will be explained, Lynch said.



AFTER FIFTY BOMBING MISSIONS . . . Vernon W. Coil, Tech. Sgt. in Army Air Forces, is looking some older than the above picture portrays after being away from Torrance for a year in this grim business of war. He has seen action in No. Africa, Sicily and Rome. He is enjoying a 30-day furlough at home with his wife and son who was only two days old when he took off overseas.

So. Bay Humane Society Quits Dog Contract

The South Bay Humane society of Hermosa Beach, which has held the contract to collect dogs in Torrance and deposit them in kennels maintained by the organization is going out of business, according to a communication from Cyril Burton, representative of the organization, which was read before the city council Tuesday night.

Mr. Burton explained that the contract would be fulfilled by Mrs. Bernice D. Davidson with approval of the council. The council gave consent to having the contract assigned to Mrs. Davidson or by execution of a new contract with the city.

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CAPT. FRANK A. KEIDEL . . . well-known Lomita citizen, civic leader and commander of the V. F. W. Post at Lomita, who challenges a statement attributed to officials of Selective Service Board 280 operating in Torrance that difficulty is being experienced in finding competent persons to serve on the board. He is a former captain in the L. A. fire department, now retired.

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Make Your Date With R. C. Blood Bank Monday

Have you made a date with the Red Cross Blood Bank which is to be in Torrance next Monday, Nov. 29?

If not, it is important that you do so now, by calling Mrs. O. A. Kresse, 1443 El Prado, phone Torrance 253, who again reminds that the quota of Torrance has been raised to 375 pints of blood. The previous quota was 300 pints.

The Blood Bank which will be the Civic Auditorium from 3 to 7 p.m. next Monday is the largest mobile equipment in Los Angeles county.

"Everyone interested in saving the lives of servicemen wounded on the battle fronts should be interested and glad to donate their blood to be fabricated into the precious plasma," Mrs. Kresse explained.

Remember the date, Nov. 29 at the Civic Auditorium.